



FIRE FLIGHT

Be ready if forced to leave your home

Amber Sandhu
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hundreds of people have been evacuated due to the Carr Fire, which grew overnight to 44,450 acres. Most of the Redding hotels are fully booked, but in and around Redding, multiple shelters are open for people and pets so they can find shelter and stay safe during the fire.

- Shasta Community College - 11555 Old Oregon Trail, Redding, CA
- Crosspointe Community Church - 2960 Hartnell Ave., Redding, CA
- Weaverville Elementary School - 31020 CA-3, Weaverville, CA
- Grace Baptist Church - 3782 Churn Creek Rd., Redding, CA

Evacuating with pets?

The following locations are open for animals:

- Haven Humane Society - for small animals; 7449 Eastside Rd., Anderson;

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ABOVE: A Cal Fire firefighter hoses down hot spots at a Harlan Drive home that was destroyed by the Carr Fire. MIKE CHAPMAN/RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

TOP: Friday was heartbreaking for Mary Lake residents when owners returned to their destroyed homes in the aftermath of the Carr Fire. HUNG T. VU

Owners return to an ‘apocalypse’

Mike Chapman and Damon Arthur
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After a night of panic and chaos for thousands of Redding residents forced to flee the Carr Fire, many people returned Friday morning to find their homes reduced to smoking rubble.

That was the case with the Lake Redding Estates, where at least 45 homes were destroyed, based on a Record Searchlight survey.

In all, Record Searchlight reporters and credible sources tally a minimum of 80 destroyed homes, and the total figure is almost certainly larger.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko confirmed that the current count of structures destroyed is low, while he said the acreage burned total is probably close to accurate. Authorities have not yet been able to do a “windshield survey” of burned neighborhoods to get a reliable count, he said.

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Weather forecast offers no relief from perilous conditions

Jessica Skropanic
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It’s not looking good for relief from the Carr Fire.

Weather conditions continue to be hot and dry, and winds were forecast to pick up late afternoon Friday.

Pollution levels from smoke are on the rise, and are already at unhealthy levels in Shasta County.

The National Weather Service has issued a red flag warning for the North State through Monday.

“That means critical fire weather conditions,” said Eric Kurth, meteorologist at the NOAA in Sacramento. “It’s going to be similar to what we saw yesterday (Thursday).”

High heat, low humidity and wind

are the recipe for high fire risk. Temperatures should hit 110 degrees on Saturday and 110 on Sunday. Humidity levels dropped around 10 percent Friday afternoon.

That could continue into the weekend as well.

Redding city officials are asking residents to conserve water for firefighters’ use.

Winds will ramp up to 15 mph. Gusts should reach 25 mph, especially through the canyons in fire areas.

Kurth said it’s possible NOAA will push the red flag warning into the weekend.

Smoke a growing problem

Public health officials are warning

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Mary Lake locals assess damage of Redding fire

Matt Brannon
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

Some Mary Lake residents returned to their west Redding neighborhood Friday morning anxious and terrified to see what remained of their homes.

Most structures in the subdivision were intact Friday morning, while at least 10 homes on Kilkee Drive and Ridge Drive were flattened by fire.

As fire trucks tended to houses, helicopters sucked water from the lake and carried it out of sight beyond the west hills. Every few minutes, a new helicopter dropped its long vacuum into the center of the lake as the propellers sprayed onlookers with mist.

Walking along the lake Friday morning was Brad Garbutt, president of the Friends of Mary Lake. Garbutt spent the night at the Thunderbird Lodge and returned to evaluate the damage this morning. His power was

out, but his home was spared. He went for a walk through the neighborhood with a trash-grabber and bag, trying to solve small problems while letting officials tackle the big ones.

Garbutt said the subdivision felt like a ghost town in the morning, but since then, more residents are gradually returning to assess the damage.

Residents said they saw fire nearly reach the west end of the subdivision before evacuating Thursday night. Friday morning, Clothes, exercise equipment and furniture lay on the front lawn of Chris Thomas, a former San Diego fighter who placed seven hoses with running water on his roof as a last line of defense.

“I don’t want to start over,” said Chris Thomas, who returned this morning after hearing that his neighbors’ houses had caught fire last night.

The fire torched his yard, redwood

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